



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 1, 1997

H.R. 2366 **Census of Agriculture Act of 1997**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Agriculture on September 24, 1997

The Congressional Budget Office has reviewed H.R. 2366, the Census of Agriculture Act of 1997, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Agriculture on September 24, 1997. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2366 would have no significant budgetary impact. Because H.R. 2366 would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

In addition, H.R. 2366 contains no private-sector or intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The census of agriculture is a periodic census providing comprehensive data on the agricultural economy, such as the number, value, and size of farms, the value of production, and characteristics of farms and farm operators. In the past, the census of agriculture was conducted by the Department of Commerce, but appropriations were provided and personnel were transferred for this purpose to the U.S. Department of Agriculture starting in fiscal year 1997. The bill would require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a census of agriculture in 1998 and in every fifth year thereafter, and would provide for facilitating changes, such as the sharing of information between the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Agriculture. Because the bill would not affect the frequency and scope of the census, it would have no significant effect on the cost of conducting it.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Dave Hull and Rachel Forward. The estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.